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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR REGULATING MEMORY CONSOLIDATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention is based on discovery of genes that are up- or down-regulated in inhibitory avoidance, e.g., long-term memory, which genes are then for believed to have roles in memory consolidation. In particular, we have discovered that memory consolidation involves the regulation of expression of such genes as ZIZ68 (BGR1), insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), glutamate receptor 1 (GRIK1), glutamate receptor 2 (GRIK2), CREB1 and VGR. For ease of reading, these genes are collectively referred to herein as "LTM genes", and their encoded proteins as "LTM proteins".

newly-synthesized proteins are additional transcription factors that ultimately give rise to the activation of late response genes, whose products are responsible for the modification of synaptic efficacy leading to LTM.

CREB subserves the formation of memories of various types of tasks that utilize different brain structures. Evidence is available suggesting that CREB regulates the transcription of genes that subserve LTM. In Aplysia, for example, CREB activation has been interfered with by microinjection of CRE containing oligonucleotides into cultured neurons. In Drosophila, CREB function has been disrupted using a reverse genetic approach. Thus, LTM has been specifically blocked by the induced expression of a CREB repressor isoform, and enhanced by the induced expression of an activator isoform. In mouse, the role of CREB has been confirmed by behavioural analysis of a knock-out line with a targeted mutation in the CREB gene. In these mutants, learning and short term memory are normal, whereas long term memory is impaired. On the whole, the data suggest that encoding of long term memories involve highly conserved molecular mechanisms.

Animals with lesions of the medial temporal lobes and related thalamic structures show a profound disruption of memory consolidation. We have previously demonstrated that fornix-dependent lesion-induced amnesia is associated with abnormal regulation of gene expression in specific subregions of the hippocampus. See, for example, Taubenfeld et al. (1999) Nat Neurosci 2:309-10. In normal animals, inhibitory avoidance training produces a rapid and persistent increase in the phosphorylation of CREB, which is a necessary step in the regulation of CRE-mediated gene expression required for memory consolidation. The change in CREB phosphorylation is largely confined to hippocampal fields CA1 and dentate gyrus, and lasts at least 6 hours after training. Animals with fornix lesions learn the inhibitory avoidance and display memory at control levels for up to 6 hours, however, by 24 hours they exhibit amnesia. The amnesic animals also fail to exhibit any increase in hippocampal CREB phosphorylation after training. Our results suggest that hippocampal inputs passing through the fornix regulate consolidation of this form of memory via regulation of CREB-mediated gene expression in hippocampal neurons.

Initial learning is likely to result from changes in the transmission of synapses conveying information about where the animal is in space. Whether or not these

growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF;

- (ii) contacting said system with a test compound; and
- (iii) determining if the test compound alters the level of expression of the gene.

In certain preferred embodiments, the reaction system is a cell-free system, such as a purified protein preparation or a cell-lysate. In other embodiments, the reaction system is a whole cell system.

In preferred embodiments, the assay can be used to identify agents which modulate memory consolidation from amongst a plurality of different test agents.

In certain preferred embodiments, the test compound can be small organic molecules, e.g., those having a molecular weight less than 2500 amu.

Still another aspect of the present invention provides a method of conducting a drug discovery business comprising:

- (i) identifying, by one or more of the above drug discovery assay, a test compound which the level of expression of the gene or the activity of the gene product;
  - (ii) conducting therapeutic profiling of agents identified in step (i), or further analogs thereof, for efficacy and toxicity in animals; and
  - (iii) formulating a pharmaceutical preparation including one or more agents identified in step (ii) as having an acceptable therapeutic profile.
- In certain preferred embodiments, the business method includes an additional step of establishing a distribution system for distributing the pharmaceutical preparation for sale, and may optionally include establishing a sales group for marketing the pharmaceutical preparation.
- Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of conducting a target discovery business comprising:
- (i) identifying, by one or more of the above drug discovery assay, a test compound which the level of expression of the gene or the activity of the gene product;
  - (ii) (optionally) conducting therapeutic profiling of agents identified in step (i), or further analogs thereof, for efficacy and toxicity in animals; and
  - (iii) licensing, to a third party, the rights for further drug development of said identified agents.

Academic Press, London, 1987); *Handbook Of Experimental Immunology*, Volumes I-IV (D. M. Weir and C. C. Blackwell, eds., 1986); *Maintaining the Mouse Embryo*, (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1986).

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, and from the claims.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1. Time-course Northern blot analysis of zif268 and c-fos following IA training. Increase in zif268, but not c-fos mRNA is evident in all animals at 9 and 20 hr after training.

Figure 2. Time course Northern blot analysis of C/EBP $\beta$  and cyclophilin (control) mRNA following IA training in hippocampi of unoperated and fornix-lesion rats.

Figure 3. Broad scale expression profiling with cDNA expression arrays. Side by side hybridizations with cDNA probes prepared from two different RNA populations allow the simultaneous comparison of the expression levels of all the cDNAs on the array. (From Clontech user manual).

Figure 4. Examples of changes in gene array hybridizations reflecting differential expression of mRNAs following IA training. Hippocampi of control rats are compared to hippocampi of rats trained and sacrificed 9 hr later. Note that on these arrays each sequence is spotted in duplicate.

Figure 5. A Northern blot test to confirm the levels of certain transcripts.

Figure 6. Panel A. Mean escape latency for rats trained on the water maze. Rats received eight trials a day, for four consecutive days. Panel B. Mean escape latency on each of the eight trials of day one (trials 1-8) and day two (trials 9-16).

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

##### I. Overview

The present invention is based on the discovery of genes that are up- or down-regulated in inhibitory avoidance, e.g., long-term memory, which genes are therefore believed to have roles in memory consolidation. In particular, we have discovered that memory consolidation involves the regulation of expression of such genes as zif268 (EGRI), insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate

These basic-region, leucine-zipper proteins bind to DNA sequences, called cAMP response element (CRE) sites, which are often found in the upstream regulatory regions of genes whose synthesis is cAMP responsive. Molecular analysis has shown that CRE sites, and their interaction with CREB family members, are necessary for cAMP responsiveness. After the catalytic subunit of PKA translocates to the nucleus, it can directly phosphorylate the serine residue at position 133 on CREB, thus activating the protein and directly linking the cAMP transduction pathway to the induction of new gene expression (Backsai et al. (1993) *Science* 260: 222-226; and Hagiwara et al. (1993) *Mol Cell Biol* 13:4852-4859). CREB is also phosphorylated via other kinases, such as described above and in Deisseroth et al. (1996) *Neuron* 16:89-101; Impey et al. (1996) *Neuron* 16:973-82; and Impey et al. (1998) *Neuron* 21:869-883.

As is well known, genes for a particular polypeptide may exist in single or multiple copies within the genome of an individual. Such duplicate genes may be identical or may have certain modifications, including nucleotide substitutions, additions or deletions, which all still code for polypeptides having substantially the same activity. The term "DNA sequence encoding" a polypeptide may thus refer to one or more genes within a particular individual. Moreover, certain differences in nucleotide sequences may exist between individual organisms, which are called alleles. Such allelic differences may or may not result in differences in amino acid sequence of the encoded polypeptide yet still encode a protein with the same biological activity.

As used herein, the term "gene" or "recombinant gene" refers to a nucleic acid molecule comprising an open reading frame encoding a polypeptide, including both exon and (optionally) intron sequences. The term "intron" refers to a DNA sequence present in a given gene which is not translated into protein and is generally found between exons.

"Homology" or "identity" or "similarity" refers to sequence similarity between two peptides or between two nucleic acid molecules. Homology can be determined by comparing a position in each sequence which may be aligned for purposes of comparison. When a position in the compared sequence is occupied by the same base or amino acid, then the molecules are homologous at that position. A degree of homology between sequences is a function of the number of matching or homologous positions shared by the sequences. The term "percent identical" refers to sequence identity

are not naturally occurring as fragments and would not be found in the natural state. The term "isolated" is also used herein to refer to polypeptides which are isolated from other cellular proteins and is meant to encompass both purified and recombinant polypeptides. The term "modulation" as used herein refers to both upregulation, i.e., stimulation, and downregulation, i.e. suppression, of a response.

The "non-human animals" of the invention include mammals such as rodents, non-human primates, sheep, dog, cow, chickens, amphibians, reptiles, etc. Preferred non-human animals are selected from the rodent family including rat and mouse, most preferably mouse. The term "chimeric animal" is used herein to refer to animals in which the recombinant gene is found, or in which the recombinant is expressed in some but not all cells of the animal. This term "tissue-specific chimeric animal" indicates that one of the recombinant genes is present and/or expressed or disrupted in some tissues but not others.

As used herein, the term "nucleic acid" refers to polynucleotides such as deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), and, where appropriate, ribonucleic acid (RNA). The term should also be understood to include, as equivalents, analogs of either RNA or DNA made from nucleotide analogs, and, as applicable to the embodiment being described, single (sense or antisense) and double-stranded polynucleotides.

As used herein, the term "promoter" means a DNA sequence that regulates expression of a selected DNA sequence operably linked to the promoter, and which effects expression of the selected DNA sequence in cells. The term encompasses "tissue specific" promoters, i.e. promoters, which effect expression of the selected DNA sequence only in specific cells (e.g. cells of a specific tissue). The term also covers so-called "leaky" promoters, which regulate expression of a selected DNA primarily in one tissue, but cause expression in other tissues as well. The term also encompasses non-tissue specific promoters and promoters that constitutively express or that are inducible (i.e. expression levels can be controlled).

The terms "protein", "polypeptide" and "peptide" are used interchangeably when referring to a gene product.

The term "recombinant protein" refers to a polypeptide of the present invention which is produced by recombinant DNA techniques, wherein generally, DNA encoding a polypeptide is inserted into a suitable expression vector which is in turn used to

and any other nucleic acid, (e.g. as in vitro), that may be necessary for optimal expression of a selected nucleic acid.

A "transgenic animal" refers to any animal, preferably a non-human mammal, bird or an amphibian, in which one or more of the cells of the animal contain heterologous nucleic acid introduced by way of human intervention, such as by transgenic techniques well known in the art. The nucleic acid is introduced into the cell, directly or indirectly by introduction into a precursor of the cell, by way of deliberate genetic manipulation, such as by microinjection or by infection with a recombinant virus. The term genetic manipulation does not include classical cross-breeding, or in vitro fertilization, but rather is directed to the introduction of a recombinant DNA molecule. This molecule may be integrated within a chromosome, or it may be extrachromosomally replicating DNA. In the typical transgenic animal described herein, the transgene causes cells to express a recombinant form of a protein, e.g. either agonistic or antagonistic forms. However, transgenic animals in which the recombinant gene is silent are also contemplated, as for example, the FLP or CRE recombinase dependent constructs described below. Moreover, "transgenic animal" also includes those recombinant animals in which gene disruption is caused by human intervention, including both recombination and antisense techniques.

As used herein, the term "vector" refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting another nucleic acid to which it has been linked. One type of preferred vector is an episome, i.e., a nucleic acid capable of extra-chromosomal replication. Preferred vectors are those capable of autonomous replication and/or expression of nucleic acids to which they are linked. Vectors capable of directing the expression of genes to which they are operatively linked are referred to herein as "expression vectors". In general, expression vectors of utility in recombinant DNA techniques are often in the form of "plasmids" which refer generally to circular double stranded DNA loops which, in their vector form are not bound to the chromosome. In the present specification, "plasmid" and "vector" are used interchangeably as the plasmid is the most commonly used form of vector. However, the invention is intended to include such other forms of expression vectors which serve equivalent functions and which become known in the art subsequently hereto.

### III. Exemplary Embodiments

be varied, or temperature of salt concentration may be held constant while the other variable is changed. Preferred nucleic acids have a sequence at least 75% homologous and more preferably 80% and even more preferably at least 85% homologous with an nucleic acid sequence of an LTM gene. Nucleic acids at least 90%, more preferably 95%, and most preferably at least about 98-99% homologous with a nucleic sequence of an LTM gene are of course also within the scope of the invention.

Nucleic acids having a sequence that differs from the nucleotide sequences shown in one of SEQ ID NOS: 1-X due to degeneracy in the genetic code are also within the scope of the invention. Such nucleic acids encode functionally equivalent peptides (i.e., a peptide having a biological activity of a LTM polypeptide) but differ in sequence from the sequence shown in the sequence listing due to degeneracy in the genetic code. For example, a number of amino acids are designated by more than one triplet. Codons that specify the same amino acid, or synonyms (for example, CAU and CAC each encode histidine) may result in "silent" mutations which do not affect the amino acid sequence of a LTM polypeptide. However, it is expected that DNA sequence polymorphisms that do lead to changes in the amino acid sequences of the subject LTM polypeptides will exist among mammals. One skilled in the art will appreciate that these variations in one or more nucleotides (e.g., up to about 3-5% of the nucleotides) of the nucleic acids encoding polypeptides having an activity of a LTM polypeptide may exist among individuals of a given species due to natural allelic variation.

#### B. LTM proteins

Certain assays of the present invention use isolated or recombinant LTM polypeptides which are isolated from, or otherwise substantially free of other cellular proteins, especially other signal transduction factors and/or transcription factors which may normally be associated with the LTM polypeptide. The term "substantially free of other cellular proteins" (also referred to herein as "contaminating proteins") or "substantially pure or purified preparations" are defined as encompassing preparations of LTM polypeptides having less than about 20% (by dry weight) contaminating protein, and preferably having less than about 5% contaminating protein. Functional forms of the subject polypeptides can be prepared, for the first time, as purified preparations by using a cloned gene as described herein. By "purified", it is meant, when referring to a peptide or DNA or RNA sequence, that the indicated molecule is present in the substantial

the present invention is a mammalian LTM protein. It will be understood that certain post-translational modifications, e.g., phosphorylation and the like, can increase the apparent molecular weight of the LTM protein relative to the unmodified polypeptide chain.

Moreover, it will be generally appreciated that, under certain circumstances, it may be advantageous to provide homologs of one of the subject LTM polypeptides which function in a limited capacity as one of either an LTM agonist (mimetic) or an LTM antagonist, in order to promote or inhibit only a subset of the biological activities of the naturally-occurring form of the protein. Thus, specific biological effects can be elicited by treatment with a homolog of limited function, and with fewer side effects relative to treatment with agonists or antagonists which are directed to all of the biological activities of naturally occurring forms of LTM proteins.

Homologs of each of the subject LTM proteins can be generated by mutagenesis, such as by discrete point mutation(s), or by truncation. For instance, mutation can give rise to homologs which retain substantially the same, or merely a subset, of the biological activity of the LTM polypeptide from which it was derived. Alternatively, antagonistic forms of the protein can be generated which are able to inhibit the function of the naturally occurring form of the protein, such as by competitively binding to a downstream or upstream member of the LTM cascade which includes the LTM protein. In addition, agonistic forms of the protein may be generated which are constitutively active. Thus, the LTM protein and homologs thereof provided by the subject invention may be either positive or negative regulators of memory consolidation.

**C. Cells expressing LTM proteins.** As described below, the assays of the invention may include cells transfected to express a recombinant form of the subject LTM polypeptides. The host cell may be any prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. Thus, a nucleotide sequence derived from the cloning of mammalian LTM proteins, encoding all or a selected portion of the full-length protein, can be used to produce a recombinant form of an LTM polypeptide via microbial or eukaryotic cellular processes. Ligating the polynucleotide sequence into a gene construct, such as an expression vector, and transforming or transfecting into hosts, either eukaryotic (yeast, avian, insect or mammalian) or prokaryotic (bacterial cells), are standard procedures used in producing other well-known proteins, e.g. MAP kinase,

a test compound. Moreover, the effects of cellular toxicity and/or bioavailability of the test compound can be generally ignored in the in vitro system, the assay instead being focused primarily on the effect of the drug on the molecular target as may be manifest in an alteration of binding affinity with upstream or downstream elements or with intrinsic enzymatic activity. Many of the LTM proteins identified by the subject method will be amenable to some form of cell-free assay formats. Soluble proteins, be they cytoplasmic or extracellular, can be recombinantly expressed and at least partially purified, or provided as lysates, for use in cell-free assays. Membrane-associated proteins can, in certain instances, be purified in detergent or liposomes, or isolated as part of a cell membrane fraction or organelle preparation.

Accordingly, in an exemplary screening assay of the present invention, a mixture is generated including the LTM protein and one or more proteins (or subunits, acids) which interact with the LTM protein, such molecules being referred to herein as "LTM-interacting partners" or "LTM-IPs". Examples of LTM-IP include proteins that function upstream (including both activators and repressors of LTM activity), and proteins or nucleic acids which function downstream of the LTM polypeptide, whether they are positively or negatively regulated by it. The reaction mixture also includes one or more test compounds. Detection and quantification of complexes of the LTM protein with upstream or downstream LTM-IP provide a means for determining a compound's efficacy at inhibiting or potentiating complex formation between LTM and the LTM-IPs. The efficacy of the compound can be assessed by generating dose response curves from data obtained using various concentrations of the test compound. Moreover, a control assay can also be performed to provide a baseline for comparison. In one control assay, isolated and purified LTM polypeptide is added to a composition containing the LTM-IP, and the formation of a complex is quantitated in the absence of the test compound.

Complex formation between the LTM polypeptide and a binding partner may be detected by a variety of techniques. Modulation of the formation of complexes quantitated using, for example: detectably labeled proteins such as radiolabeled, fluorescently labeled, or enzymatically labeled proteins; by immunoassay; or by chromatographic detection.

immunodetection of complexes using antibodies reactive with the LTM binding partner, or which are reactive with the LTM protein and compete with the binding partner, as well as enzyme-linked assays which rely on detecting an enzymatic activity associated with the binding partner, either intrinsic or extrinsic activity. In the instance of the latter, the enzyme can be chemically conjugated or provided as a fusion protein with an LTM-IP. To illustrate, the LTM-IP can be chemically cross-linked or genetically fused with horseradish peroxidase, and the amount of polypeptide trapped in the complex can be assessed with a chromogenic substrate of the enzyme, e.g. 3,3'-diamino-benzidine tetrahydrochloride or 4-chloro-1-naphthol. Likewise, a fusion protein comprising the polypeptide and glutathione-S-transferase can be provided, and complex formation quantified by detecting the GST activity using 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (Hahlg et al (1974) J. Biol. Chem. 249:7130).

For processes which rely on immunodetection for quantitating one of the proteins trapped in the complex, antibodies against the protein, such as anti-LTM antibodies, can be used. Alternatively, the protein to be detected in the complex can be "epitope tagged" in the form of a fusion protein which includes a second polypeptide sequence for which antibodies are readily available (e.g. from commercial sources). For instance, the GST fusion proteins described above can also be used for quantification of binding using antibodies against the GST moiety. Other useful epitope tags include mycpeptides (e.g., see Ellisson et al. (1991) *J. Biol. Chem.* 266:21150-21157) which includes a 10-residue sequence from c-myc, as well as the pTLAG system (International Biotechnology, Inc.) or the pGEX-protein A system (Pharmacia, N.J.).

LTM protein or a complex including an LTM protein, and identify compounds that increase or inhibit that activity. For instance, the reaction mixture can be generated to include the LTP protein, a substrate for an enzymatic activity of the LTM protein, and the test agent. The rate of conversion of the substrate to product is determined, and can be compared to such control samples as the LTM proteins and substrate admixed alone. Test agents which are inhibitors of the LTM activity will decrease the rate of conversion of the substrate to product, whereas test agents that increase that rate are likely to be agonists of the LTM activity.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the subject drug screening assays can utilize the LTM proteins to generate a "two hybrid" assay (see, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,263,317; Zervos et al. (1993) *Cell* 72:223-232; Madhava et al. (1993) *J. Biol. Chem.* 268:12046-12054; Bartel et al. (1993) *Biotechniques* 14:920-924; Iwabuchi et al. (1993) *Oncogene* 8:1693-1696; and PCT Publication No. WO 94/10300). Briefly, the two hybrid assay relies on reconstituting *in vivo* a functional transcriptional activator protein from two separate fusion proteins. In particular, the method makes use of chimeric genes which express hybrid proteins. To illustrate, a first chimeric gene can be generated with the coding sequence for a DNA-binding domain of a transcriptional activator fused in frame to the coding sequence for an LTM protein. The second hybrid protein encodes a transcriptional activation domain fused in frame to another polypeptide, e.g., and LTM-AP, which binds to the LTM protein. If the two fusion proteins are able to interact, e.g., form an LTM-dependent complex, they bring into close proximity the two domains of the transcriptional activator. This proximity is sufficient to cause transcription of a reporter gene which is operably linked to a transcriptional regulatory site which is bound by the DNA-binding domain of the first fusion proteins, and expression of the reporter gene can be detected and used to score for the interaction of the LTM and sample proteins.

### B. Exemplary LTM proteins: Glur1 and Glur2

In certain embodiments, the subject assays are used to identify compounds which modulate the activity of a glutamate receptor, such as GluR1 (SEQ ID Nos. 1 and 2) or GluR2 (SEQ ID Nos. 3 and 4).

The subject assays can be used to identify agents which bind to the receptors and, e.g., mimic or potentiate the activity of the natural ligand, or which inhibit binding or signal transduction by the receptor. To illustrate, for binding studies, test agents can be tested for competition with binding. For example, [ $^3$ H]AMPA binding can be assessed as follows: cells expressing GluR1 or GluR2 are preincubated in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.4, for 30 min, and then incubated at 4°C for 4h in 100 mM buffer plus 100 mM KSCN, 70 nM [ $^3$ H]AMPA (53 Ci/mmol, NEN, Boston, MA) and the test agent. Binding of the radiolabeled AMPA is assessed and compared to the level of binding in the absence of the test compound. Nonspecific binding is measured in the presence of 1 mM L-glutamate.

c. Exemplary LTM proteins: neuroendocrine VGF

The neurotrophin-inducible gene VGF (SEQ ID Nos. 11 and 12) is expressed in neuronal and endocrine tissues. It encodes a secretory protein that is proteolytically processed in neuronal cells to low molecular mass polypeptides. In addition to targeting the second messenger induction caused by contacting cells with VGF, the subject assays can also be used to identify agents which inhibit the proteolytic processing of VGF.

d. Exemplary LTM proteins: ZIF268

ZIF268 (SEQ ID Nos. 5 and 6) is also known as krox-24, egr-1, TIS 8, NGFI-A or zenk. It is a zinc-finger transcription factor which binds to a so-called "EGR1 motif", e.g., a transcriptional regulatory sequence of 5'-CGCCCCCGC or 5'-GGGTGGGCG. See, for example, Rauscher et al. (1990) *Science* 250:1259; and Pavletich et al. (1991) *Science* 252:809.

In certain embodiments, the subject assay can be a transcription based assay including a reporter gene having an EGR1 motif as part of its transcriptional regulatory sequences. Test agents can be assessed for their ability to enhance or inhibit ZIF268-dependent transcription.

In other embodiments, test agents can be tested for their ability to enhance or inhibit binding of ZIF268 with its EGR1 motif in a competitive binding assay, e.g., a nucleic acid including the motif.

e. Exemplary LTM proteins: C/EBP $\beta$

In another embodiment, the target for the subject drug screening assay is the transcription factor C/EBP $\beta$  (SEQ ID Nos. 9 and 10), also referred to as the CCAAT/enhancer protein. The CCAAT/Enhancer Binding Protein (C/EBP) family belongs to the basic leucine zipper class of transcription factors. The C/EBP protein binds to the CCAAT-box (consensus GG<sup>1</sup>/CAATCT).

As above with ZIF268, C/EBP-dependent transcriptional activity or competition binding assays can be used to assessed the ability of test compounds to enhance or inhibit C/EBP $\beta$  activity.

f. Exemplary Screening and Selection Assays: Second Messenger Generation

When screening for bioactivity of test compounds, intracellular second messenger generation can be measured directly. A variety of intracellular effectors have been identified as being regulated by certain of the LTM proteins described above,

kinase, but activates protein kinases or phosphatase that function downstream in the signal transduction pathway.

One such cascade is the MAP kinase pathway that appears to mediate both mitogenic, differentiation and stress responses in different cell types. Stimulation of growth factor receptors results in Ras activation followed by the sequential activation of c-Raf, MEK, and p44 and p42 MAP kinases (ERK1 and ERK2). Activated MAP kinase then phosphorylates many key regulatory proteins, including p90RSK and Elk-1 that are phosphorylated when MAP kinase translocates to the nucleus. Homologous pathways exist in mammalian and yeast cells. For instance, an essential part of the *S. cerevisiae* pheromone signaling pathway is comprised of a protein kinase cascade composed of the products of the STE11, STE7, and FUS3/KSS1 genes (the latter pair are distinct, functionally redundant). Accordingly, phosphorylation and/or activation of members of this kinase cascade can be detected and used to quantitate receptor engagement. Phosphotyrosine specific antibodies are available to measure increases in tyrosine phosphorylation and phospho-specific antibodies are commercially available (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA).

In yet another embodiment, the signal transduction pathway of the LTM protein upregulates expression or otherwise activates an enzyme which is capable of cleaving a substrate which can be added to the cell. The signal can be detected by using a detectable substrate, in which case loss of the substrate signal is monitored, or alternatively, by using a substrate which produces a detectable product. In preferred embodiments, the conversion of the substrate to product by the activated enzyme produces a detectable change in optical characteristics of the test cell, e.g., the substrate and/or product is chromogenically or fluorogenically active. In an illustrative embodiment the, signal transduction pathway causes a change in the activity of a proteolytic enzyme, altering the rate at which it cleaves a substrate peptide (or simply activates the enzyme towards the substrate). The peptide includes a fluorogenic donor radical, e.g., a fluorescence emitting radical, and an acceptor radical, e.g., an acceptor radical which absorbs the fluorescence energy of the fluorogenic donor radical. See, for example, USSN 5,527,681; 5,506,115, 5,429,766, 5,424,186, and 5,316,691; and Capobianco et al. (1992) *Anal Biochem* 204:96-102. For example, the substrate



modified endogenous gene, or a part of a completely heterologous construct, e.g., as part of a reporter gene construct.

In one embodiment, the indicator gene is an unmodified endogenous gene. In certain instances, it may be desirable to increase the level of transcriptional activation of the endogenous indicator gene by the signal pathway in order to, for example, improve the signal-to-noise of the test system, or to adjust the level of response to a level suitable for a particular detection technique. In one embodiment, the transcriptional activation ability of the signal pathway can be amplified by the overexpression of one or more of the proteins involved in the intracellular signal cascade, particularly enzymes involved in the pathway. For example, increased expression of Jun kinases (JNKs) can potentiate the level of transcriptional activation by a signal in an MEK/MEKK pathway. This approach can, of course, also be used to potentiate the level of transcription of a heterologous reporter gene as well.

In other embodiments, the sensitivity of an endogenous indicator gene can be enhanced by manipulating the promoter sequence at the natural locus for the indicator gene. Such manipulation may range from point mutations to the endogenous regulatory elements to gross replacement of all or substantial portions of the regulatory elements. In general, manipulation of the genomic sequence for the indicator gene can be carried out using techniques known in the art, including homologous recombination.

In another exemplary embodiment, the promoter (or other transcriptional regulatory sequences) of the endogenous gene can be "switched out" with a heterologous promoter sequence, e.g., to form a chimeric gene at the indicator gene locus. Again, using such techniques as homologous recombination, the regulatory sequence can be so altered at the genomic locus of the indicator gene.

In still another embodiment, a heterologous reporter gene construct can be used to provide the function of an indicator gene. Reporter gene constructs are prepared by operatively linking a reporter gene with at least one transcriptional regulatory element. If only one transcriptional regulatory element is included it must be a regulatable promoter. At least one the selected transcriptional regulatory elements must be indirectly or directly regulated by the activity of the selected cell-surface receptor whereby activity of the receptor can be monitored via transcription of the reporter genes.

Other promoters and transcriptional control elements, in addition to those described above, include the vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) gene promoter (cAMP responsive; Fink et al. (1988); *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 85:6662-6666); the somatostatin gene promoter (cAMP responsive; Mounin et al. (1986); *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 83:6682-6686); the proenkephalin promoter (responsive to cAMP, nicotinic agonists, and phorbol esters; Comb et al. (1986); *Nature* 323:353-356); the phosphoenolpyruvate carboxy-kinase gene promoter (cAMP responsive; Short et al. (1986); *J. Biol. Chem.* 261:9721-9726); the NGF-A gene promoter (responsive to NGF, cAMP, and serum; Changellian et al. (1989); *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 86:377-381); and others that may be known to or prepared by those of skill in the art.

In the case of receptors which modulate cyclic AMP, a transcriptional based readout can be constructed using the cyclic AMP response element binding protein, CREB, which is a transcription factor whose activity is regulated by phosphorylation at a particular serine (S133). When this serine residue is phosphorylated, CREB binds to a recognition sequence known as a CRE (cAMP Responsive Element) found to the 5' of promoters known to be responsive to elevated cAMP levels. Upon binding of phosphorylated CREB to a CRE, transcription from this promoter is increased.

Phosphorylation of CREB is seen in response to both increased cAMP levels and increased intracellular Ca levels. Increased cAMP levels result in activation of PKA, which in turn phosphorylates CREB and leads to binding to CRE and transcriptional activation. Increased intracellular calcium levels results in activation of calmodulin/calmodulin responsive kinase IV (Cam kinase IV). Phosphorylation of CREB by Cam kinase IV is effectively the same as phosphorylation of CREB by PKA, and results in transcriptional activation of CRE containing promoters. Activation of extracellular signal-related protein kinase (ERK) and Rsk2 by also leads to the phosphorylation and transactivation of CREB. Impey et al. (1998) *Neuron* 21:869-883.

Therefore, a transcriptional-based readout can be constructed in cells containing a reporter gene whose expression is driven by a basal promoter containing one or more CRE. Changes in the intracellular concentration of Ca<sup>++</sup> (a result of alterations in the activity of the receptor upon engagement with a ligand) will result in changes in the level of expression of the reporter gene if: a) CREB is also co-expressed in the cell, and b) either the endogenous yeast Cam kinase will phosphorylate CREB in response to



term "receptor-responsive promoter" indicates a promoter which is regulated by some product of the target receptor's signal transduction pathway.

Alternatively, the promoter may be one which is repressed by the receptor pathway, thereby preventing expression of a product which is deleterious to the cell. With a receptor repressed promoter, one screens for agonists by linking the promoter to a deleterious gene, and for antagonists, by linking it to a beneficial gene. Repression may be achieved by operably linking a receptor-induced promoter to a gene encoding mRNA which is antisense to at least a portion of the mRNA encoded by the marker gene (whether in the coding or flanking regions), so as to inhibit translation of that mRNA. Repression may also be obtained by linking a receptor-induced promoter to a gene encoding a DNA binding repressor protein, and incorporating a suitable operator site into the promoter or other suitable region of the marker gene.

#### h. Exemplary emodiments: Host Cells

Suitable host cells for generating the subject assay include prokaryotes, yeast, or higher eukaryotic cells, especially mammalian cells. Prokaryotes include gram negative or gram positive organisms. Examples of suitable mammalian host cell lines include the COS-7 line of monkey kidney cells (ATCC CRL 1651) (Gluzman (1981) Cell 23:175) CV-1 cells (ATCC CCL 70), L cells, C127/3T3, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO), HeLa and BHK cell lines. It will be understood that to achieve selection or screening, the host cell must have an appropriate phenotype.

If yeast cells are used, the yeast may be of any species which are cultivable and in which an exogenous receptor can be made to engage the appropriate signal transduction machinery of the host cell. Suitable species include *Kluyverella*

*Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, and *Ustilago maydis*; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is preferred. Other yeast which can be used in practicing the present invention are *Neurospora crassa*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Candida tropicalis*, and *Hansenula polymorpha*. The term "yeast", as used herein, includes not only yeast in a strictly taxonomic sense, i.e., unicellular organisms, but also yeast-like multicellular fungi or filamentous fungi.

The choice of appropriate host cell will also be influenced by the choice of detection signal. For instance, reporter constructs, as described below, can provide a selectable or screenable trait upon transcriptional activation (or inactivation) in response

In the methods of the present invention, the lesion mammal can have a lesion of the fornix or a related brain structure that disrupts memory consolidation (e.g., perirhinal cortex, amygdala, medial septal nucleus, locus coeruleus, hippocampus, mammillary bodies). Lesions in the mammal can be produced by mechanical or chemical disruption. For example, the fornix lesion can be caused by surgical ablation, electrolytic, neurotoxic and other chemical ablation techniques, or reversible inactivation such as by injection of an anesthetic, e.g., tetrodotoxin or lidocaine, to temporarily arrest activity in the fornix.

To further illustrate, fimbria-fornix (rodents) and fornix (primates) lesions can be created by stereotaxic ablation. In particular, neurons of the fornix structure are axotomized, e.g., by transection or aspiration (suction) ablation. A complete transection of the fornix disrupts cholinergic and GABAergic function and electrical activity, and induces morphological reorganization in the hippocampal formation. In general, the fornix transection utilized in the subject method will not disconnect the parahippocampal region from the neocortex. In those embodiments, the fornix transection will not disrupt functions that can be carried out by the parahippocampal region independent of processing by the hippocampal formation, and hence would not be expected to produce the full-blown amnesia seen following more complete hippocampal system damage.

In one embodiment, the animal can be a rat. Briefly, the animals are anesthetized, e.g., with intraperitoneal injections of a ketamine-xylazine mixture and positioned in a Kopf stereotaxic instrument. A sagittal incision is made in the scalp and a craniotomy is performed extending 2.0 mm posterior and 3.0 mm lateral from Bregma. An aspirative device, e.g., with a 20 gauge tip, is mounted to a stereotaxic frame (Kopf Instruments) and fimbria-fornix is aspirated by placing the suction tip at the correct stereotaxic location in the animal's brain. Unilateral aspirative lesions are made by suction through the cingulate cortex, completely transecting the fimbria fornix unilaterally, and (optionally) removing the dorsal tip of the hippocampus as well as the overlying cingulate cortex to inflict a partial denervation on the hippocampus target. See also Gage et al. (1983) *Brain Res.* 268:27 and Gage et al. (1986) *Neuroscience* 19:24.

In another exemplary embodiment, the animal can be a monkey. The animals can be anesthetized, e.g., with isoflurane (1.5-2.0%). Following pretreatment with mannitol (0.25 g/kg, iv), unilateral transections of the left fornix can be performed, such

animal is placed in the lit chamber for some period of time, then the door is opened, the animal moves to the dark chamber after a short delay-the latency, that is recorded. Upon entry into the dark chamber, the door is shut closed and a footshock is delivered. Retention of the experience is determined after various time intervals, e.g., 24 or 48 hours, by repeating the test and recording the latency. The protocol is one of many variants of the inhibitory avoidance procedures (for review, see Rush (1988) *Behav Neural Biol* 50:255).

An exemplary maze testing embodiment is the water maze working memory test. In general, the method utilizes an apparatus which consists of a circular water tank. The water in the tank is made cloudy by the addition of milk powder. A clear plexiglass platform, supported by a movable stand rest on the bottom of the tank, is submerged just below the water surface. Normally a swimming rat cannot perceive the location of the platform but it may recall it from a previous experience and training, unless it suffers from some memory impairment. The time taken to locate the platform is measured and referred to as the latency. During the experiment, all orientational cues such as ceiling lights etc. remain unchanged. Longer latencies are generally observed with rats with some impairment to their memory.

Another memory test includes the eyeblink conditioning test, which involves the administration of white noise or steady tone that precedes a mild air puff which stimulates the subject's eyeblink.

Still another memory test which can be used is fear conditioning, e.g., either "cued" and "contextual" fear conditioning. In one embodiment, a freeze monitor administers a sequence of stimuli (sounds, shock) and then records a series of latencies measuring the recovery from shock induced freezing of the animal.

Another memory test for the lesioned animals is a holeboard test, which utilizes a rotating holeboard apparatus containing (four) open holes arranged in a 4-corner configuration in the floor of the test enclosure. A mouse is trained to poke its head into a hole and retrieve a food reward from a "bailed" hole which contains a reward on every trial. There is a food reward (e.g., Froot Loop) in every exposed hole which is made inaccessible by being placed under a screen. The screen allows the odor of the reward to emanate from the hole, but does not allow access to the reinforcer. When an individual hole is baited, a small piece of Froot Loop is placed on top of the screen, where it is

such as, but not exclusively, mannitol or glycine may be used and appropriate buffered solutions of the desired volume will be provided so as to obtain adequate isotonic buffered solutions of the desired pH. Similar solutions may also be used for the pharmaceutical compositions of compounds in isotonic solutions of the desired volume and include, but not exclusively, the use of buffered saline solutions with phosphate or citrate at suitable concentrations so as to obtain at all times isotonic pharmaceutical preparations of the desired pH, (for example, neutral pH).

In certain embodiments, the pharmaceutical of the present invention is a gene delivery system for gene therapy with a therapeutic LTM gene. Such gene therapy systems can be introduced into a patient by any of a number of methods, each of which is familiar in the art. For instance, a pharmaceutical preparation of the gene delivery system can be introduced systemically, e.g. by intravenous injection, and specific transduction of the protein in the target cells occurs predominantly from specificity of transfection provided by the gene delivery vehicle, cell-type or tissue-type expression due to the transcriptional regulatory sequences controlling expression of the receptor gene, or a combination thereof. In other embodiments, initial delivery of the recombinant gene is more limited with introduction into the animal being quite localized. For example, the gene delivery vehicle can be introduced by catheter (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,328,470) or by stereotactic injection (e.g. Chen et al. (1994) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91: 3054-3057).

The pharmaceutical preparation of the gene therapy construct can consist essentially of the gene delivery system in an acceptable diluent, or can comprise a slow release matrix in which the gene delivery vehicle is imbedded. Alternatively, where the complete gene delivery system can be produced intact from recombinant cells, e.g. retroviral vectors, the pharmaceutical preparation can comprise one or more cells which produce the gene delivery system.

#### *F. Methods of Treatment*

In various embodiments, the present invention contemplates modes of treatment and prophylaxis which utilize one or more of the subject LTM genes (e.g., by gene therapy) or antisense constructs thereof, the LTM proteins (e.g., for protein therapy) or peptidomimetics thereof, or compounds identified in the subject drug screening assays. These agents may be useful for altering (increasing or decreasing) the occurrence of

used to treat amnesia of longer duration, such as post concussive or as the result of Herpes simplex encephalitis.

#### (i) Effective Dose

Toxicity and therapeutic efficacy of compounds to be used in the treatment methods of the present invention can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., for determining the LD<sub>50</sub> (the dose lethal to 50% of the population) and the ED<sub>50</sub> (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population). The dose ratio between toxic and therapeutic effects is the therapeutic index and it can be expressed as the ratio LD<sub>50</sub>/ED<sub>50</sub>. Compounds which exhibit large therapeutic indices are preferred. While compounds that exhibit toxic side effects may be used, care should be taken to design a delivery system that targets such compounds to the site of affected tissue in order to minimize potential damage to uninfected cells and, thereby, reduce side effects.

The data obtained from the cell culture assays and animal studies can be used in formulating a range of dosage for use in humans. The dosage of such compounds lies preferably within a range of circulating concentrations that include the ED<sub>50</sub> with little or no toxicity. The dosage may vary within this range depending upon the dosage form employed and the route of administration utilized. For any compound used in the method of the invention, the therapeutically effective dose can be estimated initially from cell culture assays. A dose may be formulated in animal models to achieve a circulating plasma concentration range that includes the IC<sub>50</sub> (i.e., the concentration of the test compound which achieves a half-maximal inhibition of symptoms) as determined in cell culture. Such information can be used to more accurately determine useful doses in humans. Levels in plasma may be measured, for example, by high performance liquid chromatography.

#### G. Diagnostic and Prognostic Assays

The present method also provides a method for determining if a subject is at risk for a disorder characterized by deterioration of memory consolidation. In preferred embodiments, the methods can be characterized as comprising detecting, in a sample of cells from the subject, the presence or absence of a genetic lesion characterized by at least one of (i) an alteration affecting the integrity of a gene encoding an LTM protein, or (ii) the mis-expression of the LTM gene. To illustrate, such genetic lesions can be

In certain embodiments, detection of the lesion comprises utilizing the probe/primer in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (see, e.g. U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,683,202), such as anchor PCR or RACE PCR, or, alternatively, in a ligation chain reaction (LCR) (see, e.g., Landegran et al. (1988) Science 241:1077-1080; and Nakazawa et al. (1994) PNAS 91:360-364), the latter of which can be particularly useful for detecting point mutations in the LTM gene (see Abravaya et al. (1995) Nuc Acid Res 23:675-682). In a merely illustrative embodiment, the method includes the steps of (i) collecting a sample of cells from a patient, (ii) isolating nucleic acid (e.g., genomic, mRNA or both) from the cells of the sample, (iii) contacting the nucleic acid sample with one or more primers which specifically hybridize to an LTM gene under conditions such that hybridization and amplification of the LTM gene (if present) occurs, detecting the presence or absence of an amplification product, or detecting the size of the amplification product and comparing the length to a control sample. It is anticipated that PCR and/or LCR may be desirable to use as a preliminary amplification step in conjunction with any of the techniques used for detecting mutations described herein.

Another embodiment of the invention provides for a nucleic acid composition comprising a (purified) oligonucleotide probe including a region of nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridizing to a sense or antisense sequence of an LTM gene, or naturally occurring mutants thereof, or 5' or 3' flanking sequences or intronic sequences naturally associated with the subject LTM genes or naturally occurring mutants thereof. The nucleic acid of a cell is rendered accessible for hybridization, the probe is exposed to nucleic acid of the sample, and the hybridization of the probe to the sample nucleic acid is detected. Such techniques can be used to detect lesions at either the genomic or mRNA level, including deletions, substitutions, etc., as well as to determine mRNA transcript levels. Such oligonucleotide probes can be used for both predictive and therapeutic evaluation of allelic mutations which might be manifest in, for example, deterioration in memory consolidation.

The methods described herein may be performed, for example, by utilizing packaged diagnostic kits comprising at least one probe nucleic acid or antibody as described herein, which may be conveniently used, e.g., in clinical settings to diagnose patients exhibiting symptoms or family history of a disease or illness involving memory or an LTM gene.

material may have virtually any possible structural configuration so long as the coupled molecule is capable of binding to an antigen or antibody. Thus, the support configuration may be spherical, as in a bead, or cylindrical, as in the inside surface of a test tube, or the external surface of a rod. Alternatively, the surface may be flat such as a sheet, test strip, etc. Preferred supports include polystyrene beads. Those skilled in the art will know many other suitable carriers for binding antibody or antigen, or will be able to ascertain the same by use of routine experimentation.

One means for labeling an anti-LTM protein specific antibody is via linkage to an enzyme and use in an enzyme immunoassay (EIA) (Voller, "The Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)", *Diagnostic Horizons* 2:1-7, 1976, Microbiological Associates Quarterly Publication, Walkersville, Md.; Voller, et al., J. Clin. Pathol. 31:507-520 (1978); Butler, *Meth. Enzymol.* 73:482-523 (1981); Maggio, (ed.) *Enzyme Immunoassay*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Fla., 1980; Ishikawa, et al., (eds.) *Enzyme Immunoassay*, K. gaku Shoin, Tokyo, 1981). The enzyme which is bound to the antibody will react with an appropriate substrate, preferably a chromogenic substrate, in such a manner as to produce a chemical moiety which can be detected, for example, by spectrophotometric, fluorimetric or by visual means. Enzymes which can be used to detectably label the antibody include, but are not limited to, malic dehydrogenase, staphylococcal nuclease, delta-5-steroid isomerase, yeast alcohol dehydrogenase, glycylphosphate dehydrogenase, trypsin, phosphatase isomerase, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, aspartate, glucose oxidase, beta-galactosidase, ribonuclease, urease, catalase, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, glutamate dehydrogenase, and acetylcholinesterase. The detection can be accomplished by colorimetric methods which employ a chromogenic substrate for the enzyme. Detection may also be accomplished by visual comparison of the extent of enzymatic reaction of a substrate in comparison with similarly prepared standards.

Detection may also be accomplished using any of a variety of other immunoassays. For example, by radioactively labeling the antibodies or antibody fragments, it is possible to detect fingerprint gene wild type or mutant peptides through the use of a radioimmunoassay (RIA) (see, for example, Weintraub, B., Principles of Radioimmunoassays, Seventh Training Course on Radioassay Assay Techniques, The Endocrine Society, March, 1986, which is incorporated by reference herein). The

identify drugs, pharmaceuticals, therapies and interventions which may be effective in treating disease.

One aspect of the present invention concerns the use of a transgenic animal which is comprised of cells (of that animal) which contain a transgene of the present invention and which preferably (though optionally) express an exogenous LTM protein in one or more cells in the animal. An LTM transgene can encode the wild-type form of the protein, or can encode homologs thereof including both agonists and antagonists, as well as antisense constructs. In preferred embodiments, the expression of the transgene is restricted to specific subsets of cells, tissues or developmental stages utilizing, for example, cis-acting sequences that control expression in the desired pattern. In the present invention, such tissue expression of an LTM protein can be essential for many forms of lineage analysis and can additionally provide a means to assess the effects of, for example, lack of LTM expression which might grossly alter development in small patches of tissue within an otherwise normal embryo. Toward this end, tissue-specific regulatory sequences and conditional regulatory sequences can be used to control expression of the transgene in certain spatial patterns. Moreover, temporal patterns of expression can be provided by, for example, conditional recombination systems or prokaryotic transcriptional regulatory sequences.

In an exemplary embodiment, the "transgenic non-human animals" of the invention are produced by introducing transgenes into the germline of the non-human animal. Embryonal target cells at various developmental stages can be used to introduce transgenes. Different methods are used depending on the stage of development of the embryonal target cell. The specific lineage of any animal used to practice this invention are selected for general good health, good embryo yields, good pronuclear viability in the embryo, and good reproductive fitness. In addition, the haplotype is a significant factor. For example, when transgenic mice are to be produced, strains such as C57BL/6 or FVB lines are often used (Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me.). Preferred strains are those with H-2<sup>b</sup>, H-2<sup>d</sup> or H-2<sup>k</sup> haplotypes such as C57BL/6 or DBA/1. The line(s) used to practice this invention may themselves be transgenic, and/or may be knockouts (i.e., obtained from animals which have one or more genes partially or completely suppressed).

(Albertini, 1994). Based on these data, we proposed that memory-inducing stimuli activate a gene cascade, where CREB regulates the expression of regulatory IEGs which, in turn, regulate the expression of more downstream target genes required for long-term memory (Albertini, 1994). This model accounts for why gene expression seems to be required only for an early and brief time window. The essential gene expression appears to be brief because it corresponds to the critical time necessary for the expression of regulatory IEGs, which would be the rate-limiting step of the molecular cascade of events leading to long-term memory.

In mammals, changes in mRNA and protein levels of IEGs such as *c-fos* and *zif268* have been widely investigated in memory and models of synaptic plasticity. Although still controversial (Campeau, 1991), particularly due to the lack of precise controls or quantitative measurements (the studies have been generally based on immunohistochemical analysis), both *c-fos* and *zif268* have been reported to be up-regulated in several brain areas following different kinds of learning (rev. in Dragunow, 1996). Therefore, in our initial pilot experiments, we performed a Northern blot analysis of changes in hippocampal *zif268* and *c-fos* mRNA levels following IA training, focusing on the temporal window suggested by induction of PCREB; i.e., 3, 6, 9, and 20 hrs after training. Three animals per timepoint were investigated, and the hybridizations were normalized using cyclophilin gene as a control probe. The same membrane was sequentially hybridized with all the probes. As shown in Fig. 1, we found that *zif268* was induced in all the trained animals at 9 and 20 hr after training. On the contrary, *c-fos* did not show any evident change throughout the timecourse. Thus, the IEG response to IA training are selective with respect to the genes activated as well as the time following training.

Fig. 1. Time-course Northern blot analysis of *zif268* and *c-fos* following IA training. Increase in *zif268*, but not *c-fos* mRNA is evident in all animals at 9 and 20 hr after training. These results showed that *zif268* is induced in the hippocampus by IA. They also reveal when the induction of an IEG is detectable in the hippocampus following IA, namely at 9 and 20 hrs. On the basis of these data, as described below, we decided to perform our first array hybridization analysis using the RNA obtained from animals 9 hr after training.

## Example 2

### Array hybridization reveals new gene responses to IA training.

We believe that our model system lends itself particularly well to searching for genes differentially expressed in long-term memory. We have determined where and when to carry out the differential analysis in animals that have the ability to learn vs. those with memory impairment. We also know that learning induces a hippocampal gene response that is sensitive to fornix lesions.

The possibility of identifying differentially expressed genes is one of the most powerful approaches for understanding the gene pattern linked to a specific function. A multitude of techniques have become available in recent years to isolate differentially expressed genes and some have been successfully used in isolating genes involved in long-term memory (Cavallaro, 1997). The most advanced generation of these techniques is the hybridization of DNA arrays. The arrays consist of supports (nylon or glass) on which cDNA fragments have been immobilized systematically. A schematic representation of how this technique works is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Broad scale expression profiling with cDNA expression arrays. Side by side hybridizations with cDNA probes prepared from two different RNA populations allow the simultaneous comparison of the expression levels of all the cDNAs on the array. (from Clontech user manual). Arrays can contain, in principle, all the cloned DNA sequences. We began our analysis using a relatively small array, the Atlas™ rat cDNA expression array from Clontech (Palo Alto, Ca), which was the most complete commercially available array at that time. This array contained 588 genes isolated from rat brain and coding for a variety of molecules involved in the pathways that regulate brain function, such as signaling molecules, receptors, signal transduction proteins, extracellular proteins, structural molecules, molecules involved in synaptic transmission, and molecules involved in neural pathologies, including Alzheimer disease. The DNAs were fixed on a positively charged nylon membrane.

Since it is possible to detect changes in mRNA expression at 9 hr after IA training compared to controls, we began the search for differential gene expression memory using array hybridization and compared animals that walked through the apparatus without receiving a shock (0 no shock) and were immediately sacrificed to animals that underwent IA training and were sacrificed 9 hr later. Hippocampus from 4

These results show that the regulation of genes #2 and #3 is selectively associated with IA training. As with C/EBP $\beta$ , the regulation of gene #2 that occurred with learning was abolished in fornix-lesioned animals, although the basal expression of the gene was not affected by lesioning. These data confirmed the IA memory formation is accompanied by regulation of gene expression that is induced by inputs passing through the fornix. Gene #3, on the other hand, appeared to be down-regulated with IA memory as well as in all animals with fornix lesions. From these data we conclude that fornix lesions produce changes in the regulation of certain genes within the hippocampus. This result is intriguing and suggests that the fornix may contribute to memory formation by modulating either constitutive or IA-induced gene expression.

Taken together, these data demonstrate that we are able to detect and analyze changes in gene expression after IA training. We have confirmed that some of these changes do not occur in the hippocampi of animals with lesions of the fornix which have impaired memory consolidation. We believe that these preliminary data show convincingly that our IA model is suitable for the analysis of gene expression changes in long-term memory.

We recently began to establish hybridization conditions of more complete arrays that have very recently become available from Research Genetics. These arrays contain 5,000 rat transcripts. Our goal is to carry out a systematic analysis of the rat cloned genes and identify which change their expression following training. To screen for genes whose expression change at different times after learning, as described in the Research Plan section, we plan to analyze several time windows after training and follow up with Northern blot analyses. Moreover, to define whether the gene cascade activated in IA is a general molecular mechanism of memory, we will analyze the expression of the identified genes in other forms of memory, including contextual fear conditioning and Morris water maze.

#### Example 3

The delayed and prolonged gene response during memory consolidation makes feasible detection of changes after the Morris water maze.

One hopes that the genes involved in long-term memory consolidation are conserved, not only evolutionarily, but also across different types of memory that utilize the same neural structures. We chose IA training originally because it could be used to

Figure 6. Panel A. Mean escape latency for rats trained on the water maze. Rats received eight trials a day, for four consecutive days. Panel B. Mean escape latency on each of the eight trials of day one (trials 1-8) and day two (trials 9-16).

#### Example 4

Changes in gene expression detected by hybridizations of array.

In this project we will identify which genes, among approximately 5,000 transcripts including genes and expressed sequence tag (ESTs), are regulated in the hippocampus during IA memory formation. We will compare parallel hybridizations of identical arrays with cDNA probes obtained from hippocampal RNA of untrained and trained animals. The transcripts that will show a significant change in expression in the trained condition will be further analyzed by Northern blot, following the sequence of steps described above in 1 to 4.

The array hybridization screening for genes differentially expressed following IA training will be carried on arrays purchased from Research Genetics (Huntsville, AL). This company has recently released the most complete rat DNA array commercially available, the *rat GeneFilter microarray*. These arrays contain over 5,000 spots, representing approximately 1,700 named rat genes as well as many rat ESTs that are considered similar to named genes in other organisms. Each spot on the membrane contains approximately 0.5 ng of insert DNA from a cDNA clone containing the 3' end of a gene. The insert cDNA has been denatured and UV-cross-linked to the positively charged membrane. The manufacturer provides a detailed protocol that insures that the hybridizations are carried out under conditions where most probes (cDNA from the experimental mRNAs) are not saturating the spots. However, as described below we will set up several hybridization conditions that will provide the highest probability of success for identifying genes regulated in memory. These arrays (nylon membranes) are similar to those we purchased from Clontech and successfully used to identify several genes, as described in Preliminary Studies. However, they contain a much greater number of transcripts. Finally, Research Genetics also provides a software analysis tool that, when used in conjunction with Gene Filters, allows for the comparison of gene expression from images produced on a phosphor imaging system. This system allows for normalization across multiple experiments and has a built-in database to facilitate archiving of both raw images and fitted data. To maximize the probability of detecting

We Claim:

1. A method for modulating long term memory consolidation in an animal comprising treating an animal with an agent that modulates the activity of one or more of zif 268, insulin-like growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF.
2. A method for enhancing long term memory consolidation in an animal comprising treating an animal with an agent that modulates a signal transduction pathway of glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1) or glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), which agent is a ligand for the GluR1 or GluR2 receptor.
3. A method for identifying an agent which modulates memory consolidation, comprising:
  - (i) providing a reaction system for detecting the activity of a product encoded by a gene selected from the group consisting of zif 268, insulin-like growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF;
  - (ii) contacting said system with a test compound; and
  - (iii) determining if the test compound alters the activity of the gene product.
4. A method for identifying an agent which modulates memory consolidation, comprising:
  - (i) providing a reaction system for detecting the level of expression of a gene selected from the group consisting of zif 268, insulin-like growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF;
  - (ii) contacting said system with a test compound; and
  - (iii) determining if the test compound alters the level of expression of the gene.
5. The method of claim 3 or 4, wherein the reaction system is a cell-free system.

16. The method of claim 14 or 15, further comprising administering, conjointly with the pharmaceutical preparation, one or more of a neuronal growth factor, a neuronal survival factor, and a neuronal tropic factor.
17. The method of claim 14 or 15, further comprising administering, conjointly with the pharmaceutical preparation, an agent that activates CREB-dependent transcription in an amount sufficient to produce a memory enhancing effect.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the CREB activating agent is a cAMP elevating agent.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one cAMP agonist activates a cyclase.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the CREB activating agent is a cAMP analog.
21. The method of claim 17, wherein the CREB activating agent is a cAMP phosphodiesterase inhibitor.
22. A method for assessing a patient for learning and/or memory functional performance including a step of detecting the expression of a gene selected from the group consisting of zif 268, insulin-like growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF, or the level of activity of a gene product thereof, in the patient's hippocampus.
23. A method for assessing a patient for learning and/or memory functional performance including a step of detecting the expression of, or a mutation in, one or more genes selected from the group consisting of zif 268, insulin-like growth factor, glutamate receptor 1 (GluR1), glutamate receptor 2 (GluR2), c/EBP $\beta$  and VGF, or the level of activity of the gene products thereof, (optionally) in the patient's hippocampus.



Figure 1

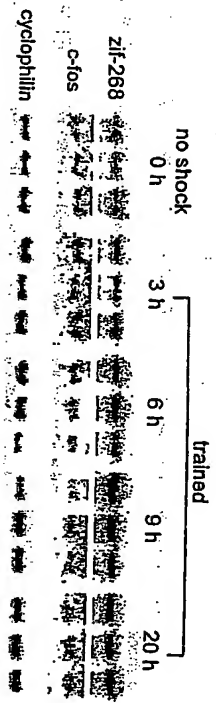


Figure 3

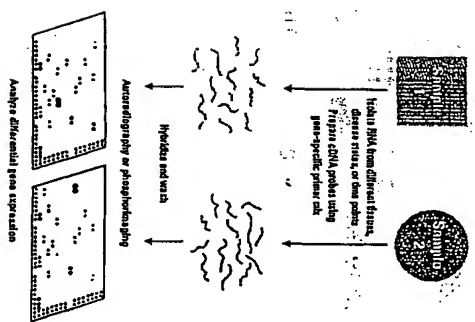


Figure 5

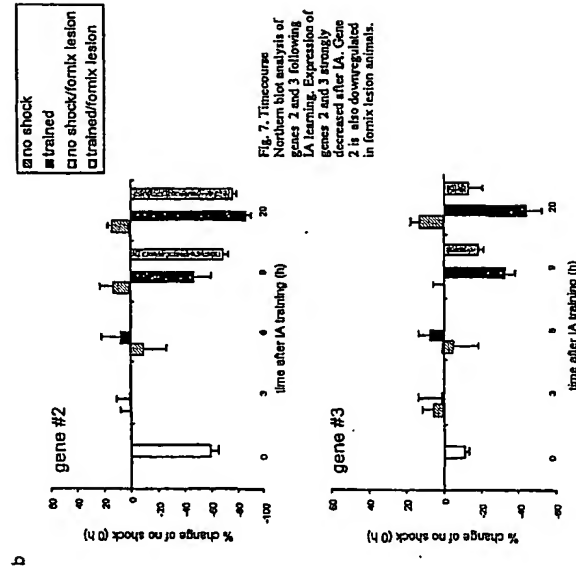
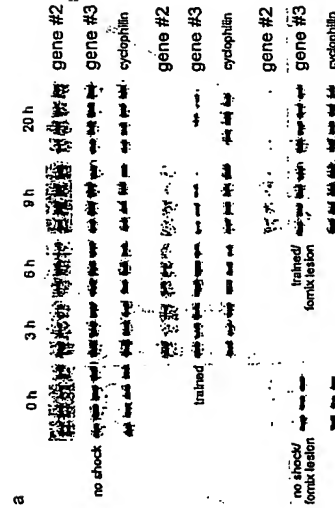


Fig. 7. Timecourse Northern blot analysis of genes 2 and 3 following IA learning. Expression of genes 2 and 3 strongly decreased after IA. Gene 2 is also downregulated in fornix lesion animals.

## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> BEAR, Mark  
ALBERINI, Cristina

<120> METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR REGULATING MEMORY CONSOLIDATION

<130> NIIN-PWO-008

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<141> 2000-04-02

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<151> 2000-03-31

<160> 12

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Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Leu Gln Phe Val Cys Gly Asp Arg Gly Phe Tyr  
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ttc aac aag acc aca ggg tat ggc tcc agc agt cgg agg gcg cct cag  
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1 5 10 15

ccg ccg cct gcc ttt aaa tcc atg gaa gtg gcc aac ttc tac tac gag  
96

Pro Pro Pro Ala Phe Lys Ser Met Glu Val Ala Asn Phe Tyr Tyr Glu  
20 25 30

gcg gac tgc ttg gct gct gcg tac ggc ggc aag gcg gcc ccc gcg gcg  
144

Ala Asp Cys Leu Ala Ala Ala Tyr Gly Gly Lys Ala Ala Pro Ala Ala  
35 40 45

ccc ccc gcg gcc aga ccc gcg gcg ccc ccc ccc gcg gcg ctg gcg  
192

Pro Pro Ala Ala Arg Pro Gly Pro Arg Pro Pro Ala Gly Leu Gly  
50 55 60

agc atc gcc gac cac gag cgc gcc atc gac ttc agc ccg tac ctg gag  
240

Ser Ile Gly Asp His Glu Arg Ala Ile Asp Phe Ser Pro Tyr Leu Glu  
65 70 75 80

ccg ctg ggc gcg ccg ccg gcg gcc ccc gcc acg gcc acg gcc acc  
288

Pro Leu Gly Ala Pro Gln Ala Pro Ala Pro Ala Thr Ala Thr Asp Thr  
85 90 95

ttc gag gcg gct ccg ccc gcg ccc gcc ccc gcg ccc tcc tcc ggg  
336

Phe Glu Ala Ala Pro Pro Ala Pro Ala Pro Ala Pro Ala Ser Ser Gly  
100 105 110

cag cac cac gac ttc ctc tcc gac ctc ttc tcc gac gac tac ggg ggc  
384

Gln His His Asp Phe Leu Ser Asp Leu Phe Ser Asp Asp Tyr Gly Gly  
115 120 125

aag aac tgc aag aag ccg gcc gcg tac ggc tac ggc agc ctg ggg cgc  
432

Lys Asn Cys Lys Lys Pro Ala Glu Tyr Gly Tyr Val Ser Leu Gly Arg  
130 135 140

ctg ggg gct gcc aag ggc gcg ctg cac ccc ggc tgc ttc ggc ccc ctg  
480

Leu Gly Ala Ala Lys Gly Ala Leu His Pro Gly Cys Phe Ala Pro Leu  
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528

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Ala Asp Cys Leu Ala Ala Tyr Gly Gly Lys Ala Ala Pro Ala Ala  
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Ser Ile Gly Asp His Glu Arg Ala Ile Asp Phe Ser Pro Tyr Leu Glu  
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Gln His His Asp Phe Leu Ser Asp Leu Phe Ser Asp Asp Tyr Gly Gly  
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Ala Tyr Leu Gly Tyr Gln Ala Val Pro Ser Gly Ser Ser Gly Ser Leu  
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Ser Thr Ser Ser Ser Ser Pro Gly Thr Pro Ser Pro Ala Asp  
225 230 235 240  
Ala Lys Ala Pro Pro Thr Ala Cys Tyr Ala Gly Ala Gly Pro Ala Pro  
245 250 255  
Ser Gln Val Lys Ser Lys Ala Lys Lys Thr Val Asp Lys His Ser Asp  
260 265 270

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80 85 90 95  
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Pro Pro Ala Pro Ser Gly Ser Gln Gln Gly Pro Glu Glu Ala Ala  
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Glu Ala Leu Leu Thr Gln Thr Val Arg Ser Gln His Ser Leu Pro  
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Glu Asn Gly Pro Glu Ala Ser Asp Pro Ser Glu Glu Leu Glu Ala Leu  
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Arg Gln Gln Glu Thr Ala Ala Glu Thr Glu Thr Arg Thr His Thr  
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gac gag gac aag cgc tcc cag gag gag acg cgc gag cgc cgc aag aag  
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2382 Pro Pro Trp Asp Arg Glu Glu Asp Glu Val Tyr Pro Pro Gly Pro Tyr  
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2400 His Pro Phe Pro Asn Tyr Ile Arg Pro Arg Thr Leu Gln Pro Pro Ser  
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Asn Gly Pro Glu Ala Ser Asp Pro Ser Glu Glu Leu Glu Ala Leu Ala  
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Gln Gln Glu Thr Ala Ala Ala Glu Thr Glu Thr Arg Thr His Thr Leu  
180 185 190  
Thr Arg Val Asn Leu Glu Ser Pro Gly Pro Glu Arg Val Trp Arg Ala  
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Ser Trp Gly Glu Phe Gln Ala Arg Val Pro Glu Arg Ala Pro Leu Pro  
210 215 220 225  
Pro Pro Ala Pro Ser Gln Phe Gln Ala Arg Met Pro Asp Ser Gly Pro  
230 235 240 245  
Leu Pro Glu Thr His Lys Phe Gly Glu Gly Val Ser Ser Pro Lys Thr  
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His Leu Gly Glu Ala Leu Ala Pro Leu Ser Lys Ala Tyr Gln Gly Val  
260 265 270  
Ala Ala Pro Phe Pro Lys Ala Arg Arg Ala Glu Ser Ala Leu Leu Gly  
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Gly Ser Glu Ala Gly Glu Arg Leu Leu Gln Gln Gly Leu Ala Gln Val  
290 295 300  
Glu Ala Gly Arg Arg Gln Ala Glu Ala Thr Arg Gln Ala Ala Ala Gln  
305 310 315 320  
Glu Glu Arg Leu Ala Asp Leu Ala Ser Asp Leu Leu Gln Tyr Leu  
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Glu Ala Ala Glu Glu Arg Glu Ser Ala Arg Glu Glu Glu Ala Glu  
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Gln Glu Arg Arg Gly Gly Glu Glu Arg Val Gly Glu Glu Asp Glu Glu  
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385 390 395 400  
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